

**FITCH, EVEN, TABIN & FLANNERY**

ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELLORS AT LAW

*Established in 1859*SUITE 1600 - 120 SOUTH LA SALLE STREET  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60603-3406

TELEPHONE (312) 577-7000

FACSIMILE (312) 577-7007

## CALIFORNIA OFFICES

SUITE 250 - 9276 SCRANTON ROAD, SAN DIEGO, CA 92121

TELEPHONE (619) 552-4311

WARNER CENTER TOWERS, SUITE 790, 21800 OXNARD ST., WOODLAND HILLS, CA 91367

TELEPHONE (818) 715-7025

## WASHINGTON, D.C. OFFICE

SUITE 401L - 1801 K STREET, NW, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006-1201

TELEPHONE (202) 419-7000

## COLORADO OFFICE

SUITE 213 - 1942 BROADWAY, BOULDER, COLORADO 80302

TELEPHONE (303) 402-6566

MORGAN L. FITCH, JR.  
FRANCIS A. EVEN  
JULIUS TABIN  
JOHN F. FLANNERY  
ROBERT B. JONES  
JAMES J. SCHUMANN  
JAMES J. HAMILL  
TIMOTHY E. LEVSTIK  
JOSEPH E. SHIPLEY  
KENNETH H. SAMPLES  
PHILIP T. PETTI  
JOSEPH T. NABOR  
STEVEN C. SCHROEDER  
RICHARD A. KABA  
KARL R. FINK  
MARK W. METZLER  
TIMOTHY P. MALONEY  
JAMES P. KRUEGER  
STEPHEN S. PAVAKEN  
RICHARD E. WAWRZYNIAK  
STEVEN C. PARMELEE  
THOMAS F. LEBENS  
BRUCE R. MANSFIELD  
KENDREW H. COLTON  
G. PAUL EDGELL  
MICHAEL A. SANZO  
SCOTT J. MENGHINI  
NORMAN M. KUNITZ  
RUDY KRATZ  
RAMON R. HOCH  
JOHN O. BAUERSFELD  
DARY D. MANN

EDWARD E. CLAIR  
JON A. BIRMINGHAM  
JOHN E. LYNUS  
STEVEN M. FREELAND  
DONNA E. BECKER  
BRIAN S. CLISE  
MARTIN R. BADER  
MARK A. BORSOS  
TIMOTHY R. BAUMANN  
JEFFREY A. CHELSTROM  
NICHOLAS T. PETERS  
KENNETH E. BLOCHINSKI  
GRACE LAW O'BRIEN  
CHRISTINE A. ABUEL  
TARA M. REEDY

## PATENT AGENTS

ERIC J. WHITESELL  
LILIA I. SAFONOV  
NADA J. ARDELEANU  
JULIE A. HOPPER

## OF COUNSEL

GEORGE W. SPELLMIRE, JR.  
LISA M. SOMMER  
GEORGE H. SPENCER, P.C.

## TECHNICAL ADVISOR

JOHN M. BRONK, Ph.D.

\*NOT ADMITTED TO ILLINOIS BAR

LIS/sjk

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TO: Name: Examiner Ellen E. KimCompany or Firm: U. S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICECity/State/Country: Alexandria, VATelecopier No.: (571) 273-2349FROM: Kenneth H. Samples, Esq.Dispatched by: Susan K.

MESSAGE:

OUR FILE NO.: 72499/6700  
Ser. No. 09/997,128

Attached per your request are copies of foreign references submitted with IDS on 3/19/02 and a copy of the International Search Report issued in the parent application PCT/JP00/03561 where the references were first cited.

The documents accompanying this facsimile transmittal cover sheet contain information from the law firm of Fitch, Even, Tabin & Flannery which may be confidential and/or legally privileged. The documents are intended only for the personal and confidential use of the addressee identified above. If you are not the intended recipient or an agent responsible for delivering these documents to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any review, disclosure, copying, distribution or the taking of any action in reliance on the contents of this transmitted information is strictly prohibited. If you have received this facsimile in error, please immediately notify the Firm so that we can arrange for the return of the original documents to us. Thank you.

( XX ) PLEASE ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF THIS COMMUNICATION

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP00/03561

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER  
Int.Cl<sup>7</sup> G02B6/36

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

Int.Cl<sup>7</sup> G02B6/36, G02B6/38

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Jitsuyo Shinan Koho	1922-1996	Toroku Jitsuyo Shinan Koho	1994-2000
Kokai Jitsuyo Shinan Koho	1971-2000	Jitsuyo Shinan Toroku Koho	1996-2000

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	EP, 819960, A2 (SEIKO INSTRUMENTS INC.), 21 January, 1998 (21.01.98), Full text; Figs. 1 to 24 & CN, 1175002, A & JP, 11-2744, A	1-26
A	EP, 862072, A2 (SEIKO INSTRUMENTS INC.), 02 September, 1998 (02.09.98), Full text; Figs. 1 to 8 & CN, 1195784, A & JP, 10-300983, A	1-26
Y	JP, 10-319273, A (Nippon Steel Weld Prod. & Eng. Co., Ltd.), 04 December, 1998 (04.12.98), Full text; Figs. 1 to 14 (Family: none)	1,6-10
Y	JP, 5-323149, A (Nippon Steel Weld Prod. & Eng. Co., Ltd.), 07 December, 1993 (07.12.93), Full text; Figs. 1 to 10 (Family: none)	1,6-10
Y	JP, 63-256909, A (Sumitomo Electric Industries, Ltd.), 24 October, 1988 (24.10.88), Full text; Figs. 1 to 3 (Family: none)	1,6-10

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.☐ See patent family annex.

\* Special categories of cited documents:

\*A\* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

\*E\* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

\*L\* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

\*O\* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

\*P\* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

\*T\* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

\*X\* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

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\*Z\* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search  
23 August, 2000 (23.08.00)Date of mailing of the international search report  
12 September, 2000 (12.09.00)Name and mailing address of the ISA/  
Japanese Patent Office

Authorized officer

Facsimile No.

Telephone No.

PATENT APPLICATION  
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 72499IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Shinichi Iwano et al.

Appln No.: 09/997,128

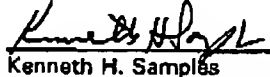
Filed: November 29, 2001

For: OPTICAL CONNECTOR PLUG,  
MANUFACTURING METHOD  
THEREOF AND ASSEMBLING  
TOOLGroup Art  
Unit: 2874

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

Honorable Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231, on this date.

3/19/02  
Date   
Kenneth H. Samples  
Registration No. 25,747  
Attorney for Applicant(s)

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. 1.56, submitted herewith is an Information Disclosure Statement, PTO/SB/08A Substitute for Form PTO-1499, and copies of references cited thereon.

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

<u>Document No.</u>	<u>Publication Date</u>	<u>Translation</u>
JP10-319273 A	December 04, 1998	Abstract
JP 05-323149 A	December 07, 1993	Abstract
JP 03-092803 A	April 18, 1991	Abstract
JP 63-256909 A	October 24, 1988	Abstract
EP 0 819960 A2	January 21, 1998	Yes
EP 0 862072 A2	February 09, 1998	Yes